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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: ARIYASU=1A

In re Application of:) Conf. No.: 5549
Toshio ARIYASU et. al.)
Appln. No.: 09/617,545) Art Unit: 1644
Date Filed or 102(e) date:)
July 14, 2000) Examiner:
For: HEDGEHOG PROTEIN) Washington, D.C.
) May 20, 2004

SECOND REQUEST FOR STATUS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Sir:

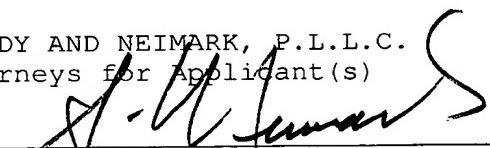
As more than 46 months have passed since this application was filed or entered into the United States National Stage and more than seven (7) months since prosecution was suspended, the applicants hereby respectfully make inquiry as to the status of the above-identified application.

As 37 CFR 1.2 states that the action of the PTO "will be based exclusively on the written record", applicant needs and therefore **requests a written reply.**

Respectfully submitted,

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